

**Year 11 Countdown to**  
**Success**

**Revision Guide**

**2016-2017**

**m**

**marches school**

### What constitutes as "appropriate" and "successful" revision?

It's the time of year where students are poring over their books, trying to ensure they are prepared for their exams. There is 16 weeks left and the egg-timer is quickly running out of sand. Revision charts, highlighter pens and sticky notes around the room are some of the methods people use to ensure information stays in their mind. But now psychologists in the US warn many favourite revision techniques will not lead to exam success. Universities, schools and colleges offer students a variety of ways to help them remember the content of their courses and get good grades. These include re-reading notes, summarising them and highlighting the important points.

Others involve testing knowledge and using mnemonics - ways of helping recall facts and lists, or creating visual representations of the knowledge. But teachers do not know enough about how memory works and therefore which techniques are most effective, according to Prof John Dunlosky, of Kent State University.

### Help - or hindrance?

He and his colleagues reviewed 1,000 scientific studies looking at 10 of the most popular revision strategies.

They found that eight out of 10 did not work, or even hindered learning. For example, many students love to take a highlighter to their notes. But Prof Dunlosky's research - published in *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science - found that picking out individual phrases in florescent yellow, green or pink can hinder revision. "When students are using a highlighter they often focus on one concept at a time and are less likely to integrate the information they're reading into a larger whole," he says. "That could undermine their comprehension of that material." But he's not suggesting that highlighters should be abandoned as he recognises they are "safety blankets" for many students.

### Writing summaries.

Teachers regularly suggest reading through notes and essays from lessons and making summaries. But Prof Dunlosky says: "To our surprise it turns out that writing summaries doesn't help at all.

### So what does work?

Only two of the 10 techniques examined turned out to be really effective - testing yourself and spreading out your revision over time. "Students who can test themselves or try to retrieve material from their memory are going to learn that material better in the long run", says Prof Dunlosky. "Start by reading the text book then make flash cards of the critical concepts and test yourself. "A century of research has shown that repeated testing works." This is because the student is more engaged and it is harder for the mind to wander. He adds: "Testing itself when you get the correct answers appears to produce a more elaborative memory trace connected with your prior knowledge, so you're building on what you know".

### Planning ahead.

However the best strategy is to plan ahead and not do all your revision on one subject in a block before moving on to the next - a technique called "distributed practice". Prof Dunlovsky says it is the "most powerful" of all the strategies.

### Cramming does not work!

Students who cram may pass the exam but they don't retain the material according to psychologist Prof John Dunlovsky,, Kent State University.

"In any other context, students use this technique. If you were doing a dance recital you wouldn't start practising an hour before, yet students like to cram for an exam."

### Procrastination.

Pupils often give the impression they are revising simply by flicking through a revision guide. Challenge them and instead ask them to create flash cards.

### HOW THE TECHNIQUES FARED

- ☑ Elaborative interrogation - being able to explain a point or fact - MODERATE
- ☑ Self-explanation - how a problem was solved - MODERATE
- ☑ Summarising - writing summaries of texts - LOW
- ☑ Highlighting/underlining - LOW
- ☑ Keyword mnemonics - choosing a word to associate with information - LOW
- ☑ Imagery - forming mental pictures while reading or listening - LOW
- ☑ Re-reading - LOW
- ☑ Practice testing - Self-testing to check knowledge - especially using flash cards - HIGH
- ☑ Distributed practice - spreading out study over time - HIGH
- ☑ Interleaved practice - switching between different kinds of problems - MODERATE

### Tutor Time and reading

This 50 minutes is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to kick-start their revision with purposeful tasks. Please ensure that all pupils are on task at all time and are making the most of this opportunity.

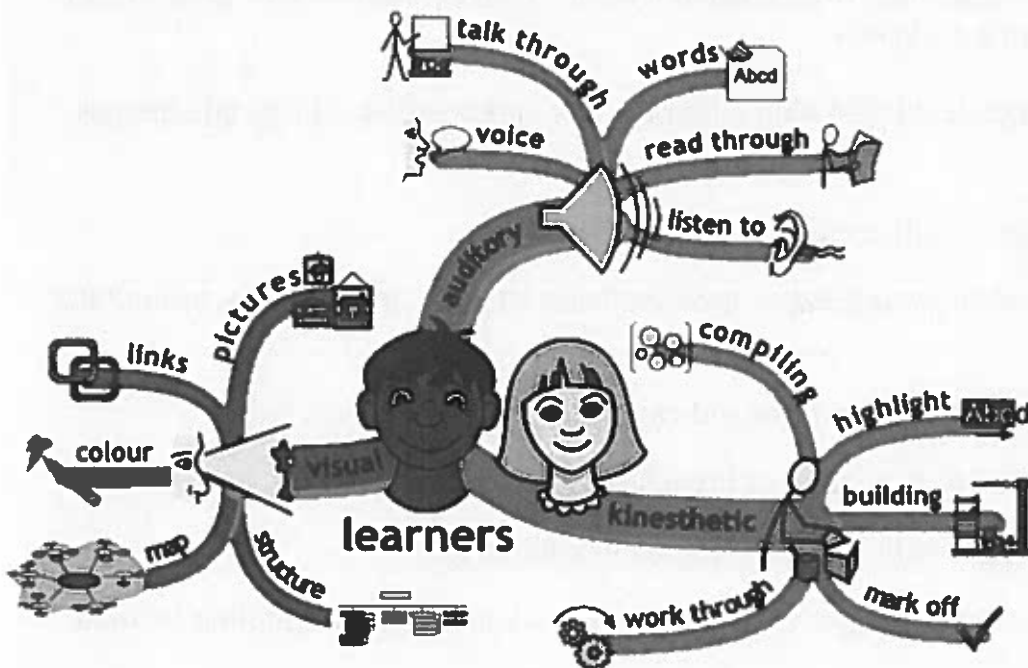
Any questions please do not hesitate to ask.



## Learning 1-10 in Japanese.

The VAK Learning Styles Model was developed by psychologists in the 1920s to classify the most common ways that people learn. According to the model, most of us prefer to learn in one of three ways: visual, auditory or kinaesthetic (although, in practice, we generally "mix and match" these three styles).

- **Visual:** a visually-dominant learner absorbs and retains information better when it is presented in, for example, pictures, diagrams and charts.
- **Auditory:** an auditory-dominant learner prefers listening to what is being presented. He or she responds best to voices, for example, in a lecture or group discussion. Hearing his own voice repeating something back to a tutor or trainer is also helpful.
- **Kinaesthetic:** a kinaesthetic-dominant learner prefers a physical experience. She likes a "hands-on" approach and responds well to being able to touch or feel an object or learning prop.



## The Journey Method

You use the Journey Technique by associating information with landmarks on a journey that you know well. This could, for example, be your journey to work in the morning; the route you use to get to the front door when you get up; the route to visit your parents; or a tour around a holiday destination. Once you are familiar with the technique you may be able to create imaginary journeys that fix in your mind, and apply these. To use this technique most effectively, it is often best to prepare the journey beforehand. In this way the landmarks are clear in your mind before you try to commit information to them. One of the ways of doing this is to write down all the landmarks that you can recall in order on a piece of paper. This allows you to fix these landmarks as the significant ones to be used in your mnemonic, separating them from others that you may notice as you get to know the route even better.

### **Example:**

You may, as a simple example, want to remember something mundane like this shopping list:

*Coffee, salad, vegetables, bread, kitchen paper, fish, chicken breasts, pork chops, soup, fruit, bath tub cleaner.*

You could associate this list with a journey to a supermarket. Mnemonic images could be:

1. *Front door:* spilt coffee grains on the doormat
2. *Rose bush in front garden:* growing lettuce leaves and tomatoes around the roses
3. *Car:* with potatoes, onions and cauliflower on the driver's seat
4. *End of the road:* an arch of French bread over the road
5. *Past garage:* with its sign wrapped in kitchen roll
6. *Under railway bridge:* from which haddock and cod are dangling by their tails
7. *Traffic lights:* chickens squawking and flapping on top of lights
8. *Past church:* in front of which a pig is doing karate, breaking boards
9. *Under office block:* with a soup slick underneath: my car tires send up jets of tomato soup as I drive through it
10. *Past car park:* with apples and oranges tumbling from the top level

## The story method

### What is it about?

It is quite possible to remember lists of words using association only. However it is often best to fit the associations into a story: Otherwise by forgetting just one association you can lose the whole of the rest of the list.

Given the fluid structure of this mnemonic (compared with the peg systems explained later in this section) it is important that the images stored in your mind are as vivid as possible. See the introduction to this section for further information on making images strong and memorable.

Where a word you want to remember does not trigger strong images, use a similar word that will remind you of that word.

### Example

You may want to remember this list of counties in the South of England: Avon, Dorset, Somerset, Cornwall, Wiltshire, Devon, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, and Surrey.

Alternatively you could code this information by imaging the following story vividly:

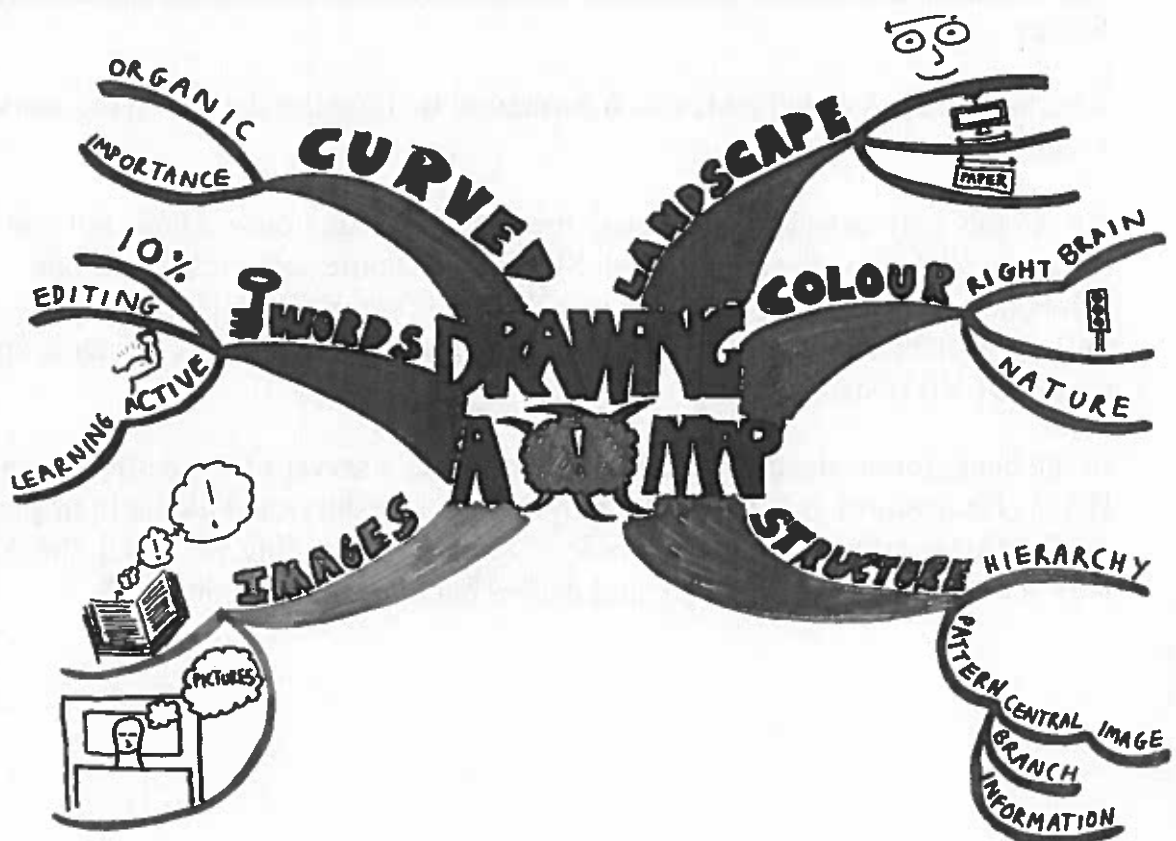
An AVON lady is walking up a path towards a strange house. She is hot and sweating slightly in the heat of high SUMMER (Somerset). Beside the path someone has planted giant CORN in a WALL (Cornwall), but it's beginning to WILT (Wiltshire) in the heat. She knocks on the DOOR (Dorset), which is opened by the DEVil (Devon).

In the background she can see a kitchen in which a servant is smearing honey on a HAM (Hampshire), making it GLOSSy (Gloucestershire) and gleam in bright sunlight streaming in through a window. Panicked by seeing the Devil, the Avon lady screams 'SoRRY' (Surrey), and dashes back down the path.

## The mind map

### The characteristics of Mind Mapping:

- The main idea, subject or focus is crystallized in a central image.
- The main themes *radiate* from the central image as 'branches'.
- The branches comprise a key image or key word drawn or printed on its associated line.
- Topics of lesser importance are represented as 'twigs' of the relevant branch..
- The branches form a connected nodal structure.





## The power of breaks

Breaks keep us from getting bored (and thus, unfocused)

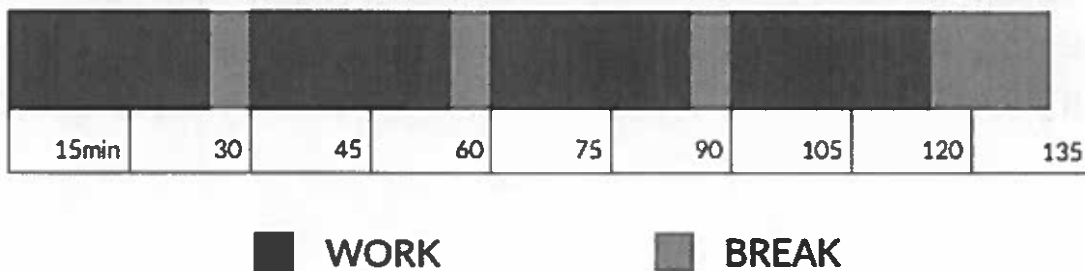
Breaks help us retain information and make connections

Breaks help us reevaluate our goals.

## Pomodoro method

One of the most common ways to implement a schedule with breaks—especially when you're busy—is to **work in small bursts**. The Pomodoro Technique is perfect for this. Just set a timer for 25 minutes, and when it goes off, take a short break for 5 minutes. Stretch your legs, grab a drink, or just sit back and relax. After you've done four Pomodoro sessions, take a longer break of 30 minutes or so.

# ONE POMODORO CYCLE

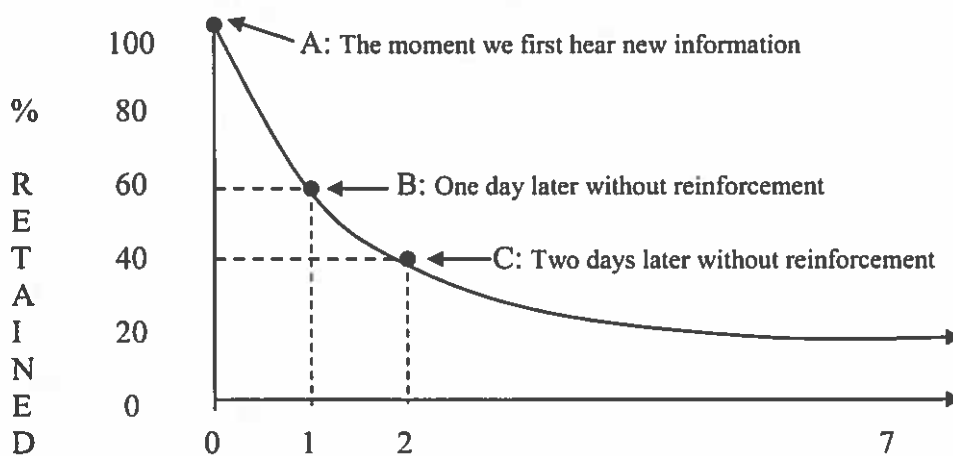


## Make sure you review- The Forgetting Curve

The Curve of Forgetting graph below (originally called *The Ebbinghaus Curve* after the German philosopher Hermann Ebbinghaus who developed it in 1885) demonstrates how quickly we forget new information we don't work with repeatedly. Here's what the graph demonstrates: Assume that we hear ten new terms in class on Monday. Our immediate recall, Point A of the graph, is 100%--we can repeat the terms and definitions at the point where we first encounter them.

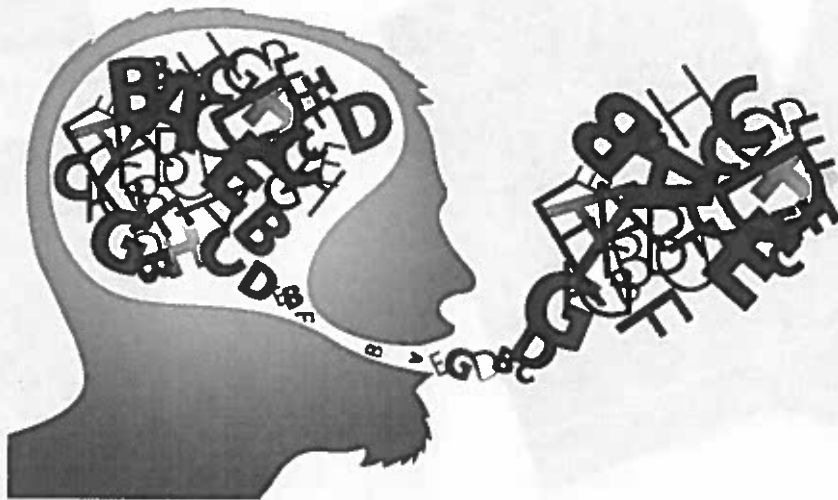
However, if we do not repeatedly return our attention to these terms and definitions, we will forget about 40% over the first 24 hours (Point B). If we wait another 24 hours before reviewing the information, we have lost 60% (Point C). So we can go from a grade of 'A' (100%) to 'D' (60%), to 'F' (40%) in just 48 hours.

## THE CURVE OF FORGETTING



## TOP 5 TIPS FOR ENGLISH REVISION

1. Make sure you know what to expect in each of your papers, so that you can create a helpful revision timetable
2. Think carefully about what the question is asking of you, and therefore how to answer it properly
3. Learn suitable quotations for characters and themes in Literature texts
4. When analysing language, identify any techniques used and comment on their effects
5. Revise all Literature texts thoroughly



TOP 5  
TIPS  
FOR  
MATHS

REVISION

1. To revise Maths you just need to do lots of Maths!

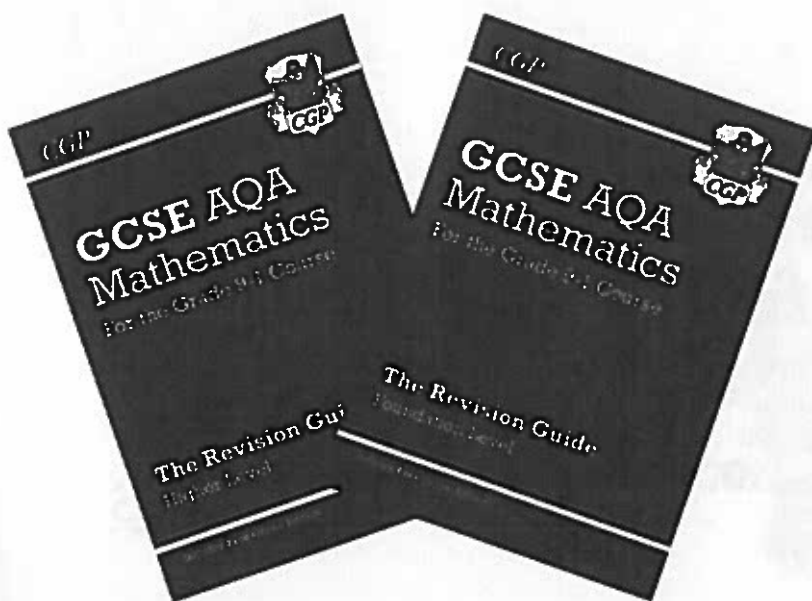
We will be setting regular short homework tasks – you must do these for the deadline so you can go through them in class and pick up your errors.

2. Focus on the areas you know you struggle with

3. Come and ask a Maths teacher for help with anything you are finding difficult

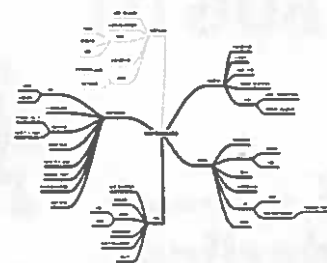
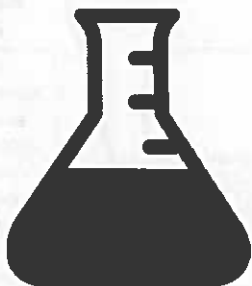
4. Practise using your own Scientific Calculator so you know how to use it in your exam

5. Buy a Revision Guide from students services for £2.50



# TOP 5 TIPS FOR SCIENCE REVISION

- 1. Practice the LOR type question (extended response).**  
Ask the teacher for practice ones based on a topic of their choosing.
- 2. Use the criteria booklets with the exam specification.**  
Look at the detail and wording. It explains exactly what they need to revise.
- 3. When doing calculations always show you working out.**  
Marks can still be awarded for using the equation correctly even if the numbers are wrong.
- 4. Remember to focus on spelling, punctuation, paragraphs etc. whenever you see a pencil next to a questions.**
- 5. Pace yourself.** You should spend 1 minute a mark on a question so look at how many marks are awarded for a question and judge you time and response accordingly.



# TOP 5 TIPS FOR GEOGRAPHY REVISION

## 1. Start your revision – stick with the plan

Use the revision guides that you have been given to follow every section of the exam timetable. If you miss part out, you can almost guarantee that will appear on the exam!

## 2. Learn your key words and spellings

There will be marks available for spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of key words.

## 3. Complete timed practice papers.

You can find past papers here T:\Geography\GCSE\Year 11 WJEC\GCSE Past Papers, or ask your teacher for copies. Remember, 1 mark per minute.

## 4. Think 'so what?'

Always use the 'so what' structure below to elaborate on your descriptions and explanations. This enables you to access the highest levels in the mark scheme.

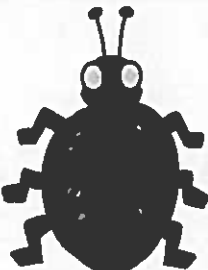
## 5. BUG the question.

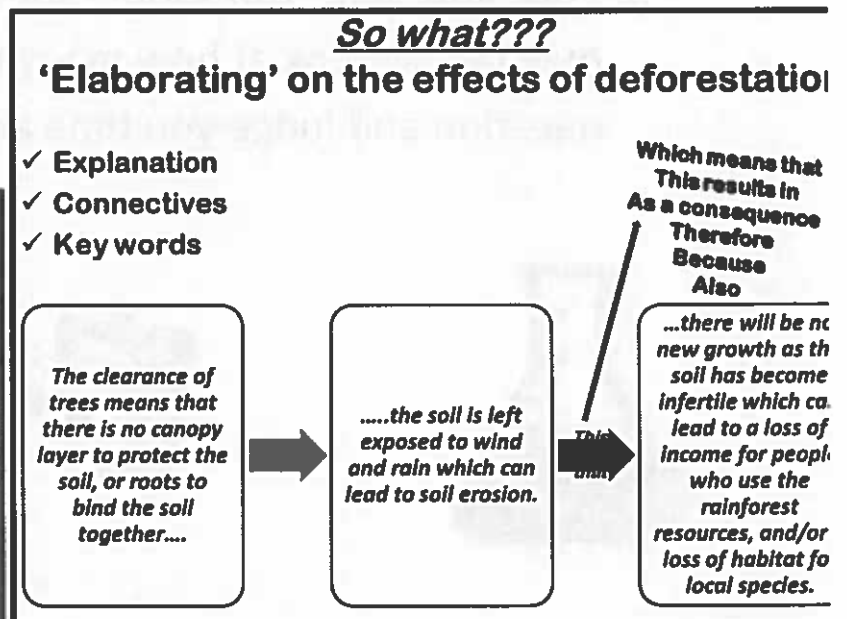
# BUG IT!

**Box** the command word

**Underline** key words

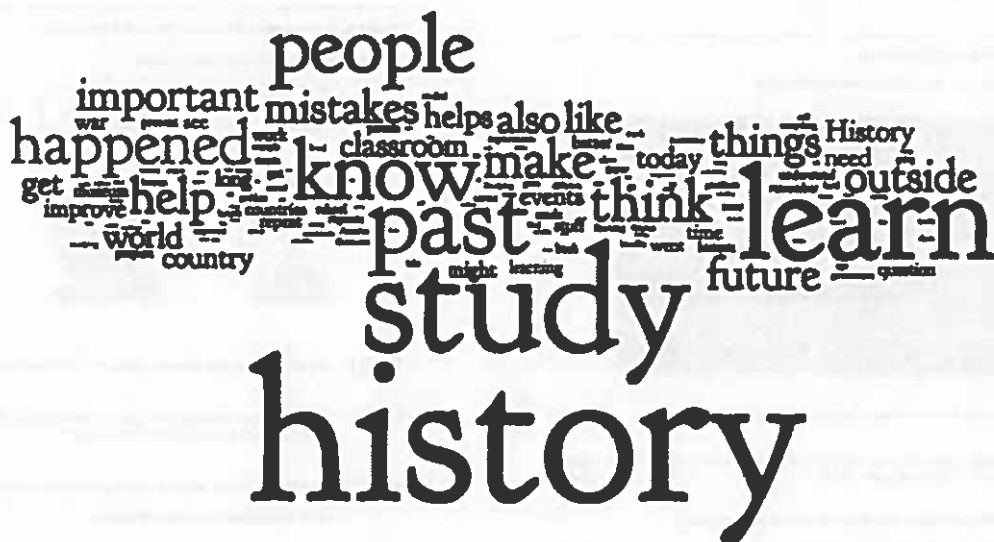
**Glance** back over the question to check you have understood it.





# TOP 5 TIPS FOR HISTORY REVISION

- 1) **Learn the success criteria for every question in all three papers.** Without knowing this your knowledge will not be applied effectively.
- 2) **Make revision cards as early as possible.** select one piece of supportive evidence for each topic. This will help you apply your own knowledge which is required for almost all questions.
- 3) **If the question says “explain”** - then you must use the word “because” and refer back to the question in every paragraph.
- 4) **Read any source material twice,** then re-read the question before starting your answer. This will stop you answering what you want the question to be and not what it actually is.
- 5) When you get in the exam **write a quick note of the success criteria** for each question at the top of your page. Cross them off as you go to make sure you don't miss anything important.



# TOP 5 TIPS FOR RE REVISION

1. **Know your exam paper** – which questions do I need to answer, how long should I spend on each question, which topics are on which exam.
2. **Learn your quotes** – what they mean and what topics they link to.
3. **Start revising early** – plan my revision and stick to it. Ask my teacher if I am unsure of anything which comes up in my revision.
4. **Timed practice papers** – complete timed exam papers, with notes, then complete a timed exam without your notes.
5. **Revision notes** – find a technique I am comfortable with e.g. flashcards/mind maps.

**Question 2 Religion and Planet Earth**

Look at the photograph below, which shows a power station.



- 816** Give two ways that modern lifestyles harm the planet. (2 marks)
- 817** Explain religious views about the nature and wonder of Planet Earth. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer. (4 marks)
- 818** 'All religious believers should be concerned about climate change.' What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- 819** Describe what some religious believers do to help to protect the planet. (3 marks)
- 820** 'It is up to God to look after the world.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (8 marks)

**Question 4 Religious Attitudes to Crime and Punishment**

Read the words in the speech bubbles below.

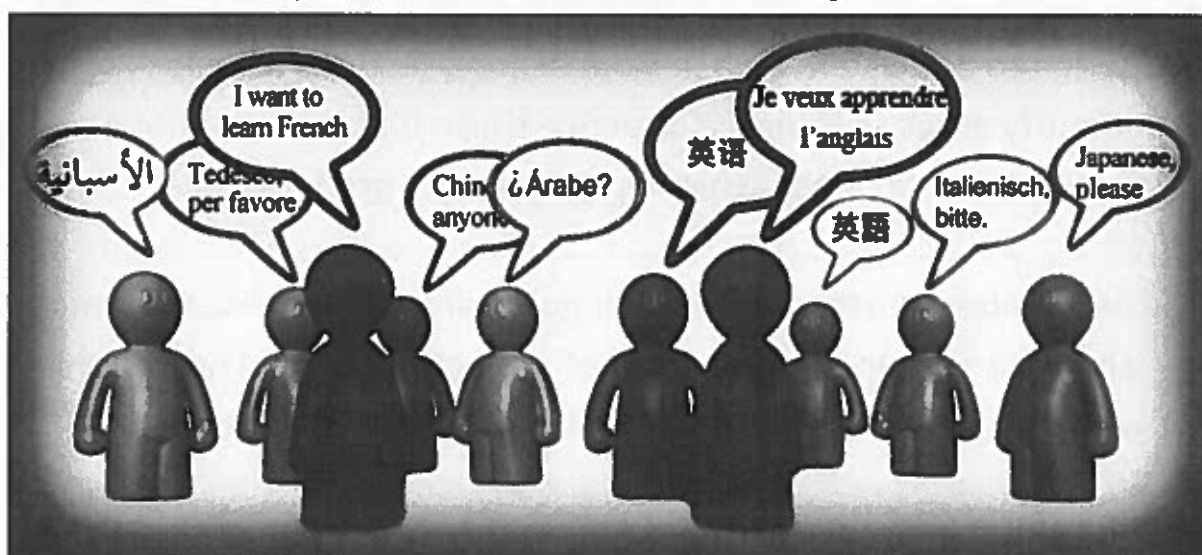


- 116** Explain the difference between prison and community service. (3 marks)
- 117** Explain religious attitudes to the use of retribution in punishing offenders. Refer to religious beliefs and teachings in your answer. (4 marks)
- 118** 'People who commit religious offences should be punished severely.' What do you think? Explain your opinion. (3 marks)
- 119** Explain briefly what is meant by deterrence. (2 marks)
- 210** 'If people were religious they would not break the law.' Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer, showing that you have thought about more than one point of view. Refer to religious arguments in your answer. (8 marks)



# TOP 5 TIPS FOR MODERN LANGUAGES REVISION

1. **Create mind-maps for each topic area.** Include words and phrases. Colour-code them and draw pictures to help you remember. You can then use these as a fantastic revision resource closer to the exams.
2. **Create notes for different tenses.** Don't forget that you will be expected to recognise and differentiate between the different tenses. Also learn time frame markers (e.g. tomorrow, next week, last year etc.)
3. **Create flash cards for vocabulary and grammar.** Keep testing yourself regularly as you need to see a word many times to really know it.
4. **Put posters / mindmaps up around your house/in your room.**
5. **Ask family members/friends to test you.**



# TOP 5 TIPS FOR RESISTANT MATERIALS REVISION



1. Good exam technique and reading the question fully is vital to achieving all the marks available for each question; practicing past paper questions will help to improve this.
2. Reduce your book notes down to 40% on cards; then learn these key points.
3. Complete all revision homework on time to gain feedback on examination performance.
4. Listen to and use feedback from exam questions to help identify areas to improve, practice these types of questions until you are at least achieving your target grade score.
5. Remember to use your revision guide and personalised learning checklist to help identify areas of strength and weakness within your subject knowledge; this will help to focus your revision.

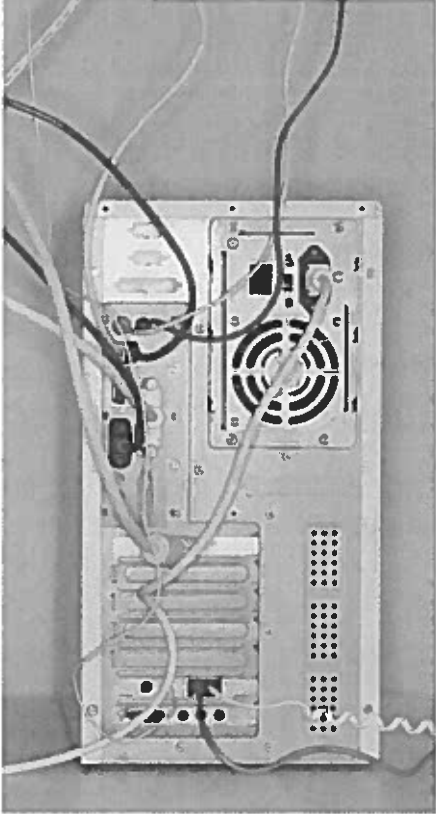




# TOP TIPS FOR ICT AND COMPUTER SCIENCE REVISION



## Top Tips for GCSE ICT and Computer Science

- 
- 1) Use the personal learning checklist (PLC) to help focus revision on all topics. These were handed out at the last parents' evening, please contact us if a replacement is required.
  - 2) Use the on line resources (VLE and Doodle) to support your child's learning
  - 3) Practice using past paper questions:-
  - 4) For ICT: T:Drive > ICAT ICT > Year 11 > GCSE ICT > Unit 1 theory > Past papers
  - 5) For Computer Science: T:Drive > ICAT-ICT < Year 11 > Computing, Theory
  - 6) These help improve exam performance and experience the type of questions they will be set in the examination.
  - 7) Encourage your child to communicate gaps in their knowledge; dialogue with their teachers will always help!
  - 8) Make use of the Edexcel revision guide—these are available to buy from school or online.
  - 9) Other useful websites:



**DODDLE**

<http://www.cambridgegcsecomputing.org/>  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z34k7ty>

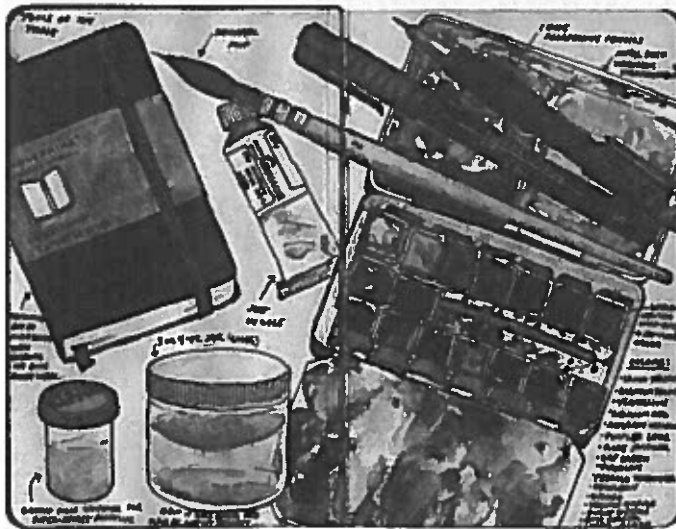
## TOP 5 TIPS FOR PE REVISION

1. Make sure your practical mark is as high as possible – attend after school between now and the moderation on 30<sup>th</sup> March to boost grades
2. Make sure you know all the fitness definitions, fitness tests and application of the components of fitness in sport to score well on section 1
3. Pay particular care to long answer questions – get the structure right to make sure you get the marks. A 'Discuss' question needs points for and against and use of the word 'However'
4. Attend revision sessions in the areas you are weak – the staff will help you but you have to be there to get the help
5. Learn subject specific definitions for the key terms you have covered through your course



## TOP 5 TIPS FOR ART REVISION

1. Be thinking about Art, artists and creative ideas ALL the time!
2. Build knowledge; camera, Pinterest, Instagram and gallery visits.
3. Bring your own equipment.
4. Find a practical space to create at home.
5. Be motivated even in tough times.



## TOP 5 TIPS FOR DRAMA REVISION



1. Give 2 clear examples for each Section A answer: Voice & Movement.
2. Give 3 clear examples for each Section B answer: Voice, Movement & Facial Expression.
3. It's a Drama exam, so make sure you talk about how you acted.
4. Don't write about your group – write about you!
5. Use your books to revise your best answers and then you can't go wrong.



## TOP 5 TIPS FOR MUSIC REVISION

1. Revise music notation.
2. Read around the history of music.
3. Listen to your set works and follow it through with the score.
4. Test yourself on the key terms (words in bold in the little white book).
5. Read the essay question twice and write the points you want to mention down the side of the paper before even starting the essay.



## TOP 5 TIPS FOR MEDIA STUDIES

1. Make sure you understand subject specific terminology and how to use them properly.
2. Practise using subject specific vocabulary e.g. 'connotation'.
3. Rehearse your storyboarding skills
4. Think carefully about mise en scene, and transitions between shots.
5. Ensure you are able to identify a wide range of shots and audio codes.